

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

We are writing to request that you prioritize the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 appropriations bill by including no less than \$4.7 billion for this program that provides critical support to our most vulnerable citizens.

LIHEAP helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. LIHEAP households are among the most vulnerable in the country. According to the National Energy Assistance Director's Association (NEADA), nearly 90 percent of LIHEAP recipients have at least one household member who is a child, elderly, or disabled. For these households, LIHEAP funding has been a lifeline during challenging economic times. Access to affordable home energy is not a luxury – it is a matter of health and safety.

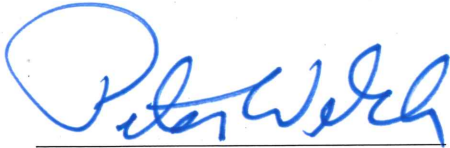
We understand the ongoing discretionary budget challenges. However, we are deeply concerned that funding for LIHEAP has declined more than 30 percent in recent years. Moreover, the number of households eligible for assistance continues to exceed available funding. According to NEADA, the total number of households receiving LIHEAP assistance has declined by 15.5 percent between FY 2010 and FY 2015, from 8.1 million to 6.8 million. About 1.3 million poor households have lost access to critical LIHEAP assistance and struggle to pay for the basic necessity of home energy in addition to other essentials like food and medicine.

Funding has declined by almost \$1.7 billion since FY 2010, yet energy costs have remained high, reducing the purchasing power of LIHEAP assistance. Recipients have seen their average LIHEAP grant reduced by about \$107 since 2010, from \$520 in FY 2010 to \$413 in FY 2015. The average LIHEAP grant is estimated to cover less than half of the average home heating costs for a household this winter, meaning that many low-income families and seniors will have fewer resources available to meet other basic needs.

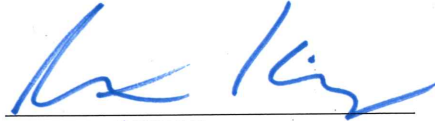
As you finalize your FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we ask that you take into account the great need for LIHEAP. We urge you to reprioritize this program and restore funding to this program to a level no less than \$4.7 billion.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request.

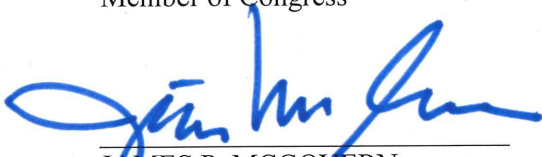
Sincerely,



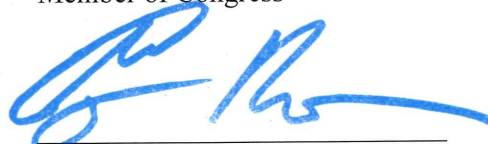
PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



GUY RESCHENTHALER
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



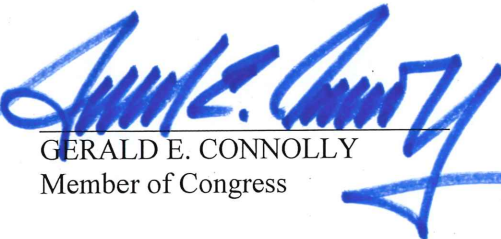
STACEY E. PLASKETT
Member of Congress



JOYCE BEATTY
Member of Congress



ANTHONY BROWN
Member of Congress



GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress



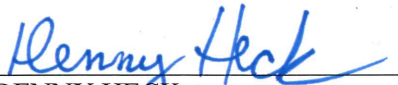
TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress



ELIOT ENGEL
Member of Congress



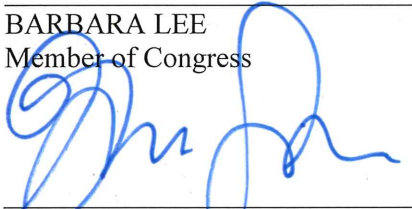
AL GREEN
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DENNY HECK
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BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



GWEN MOORE
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DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress



C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress



THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress



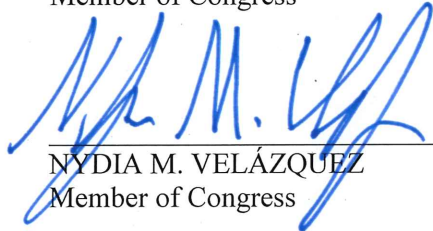
MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress



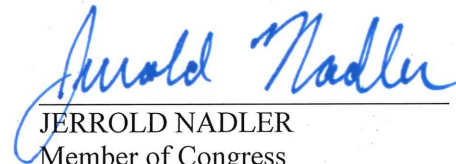
ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



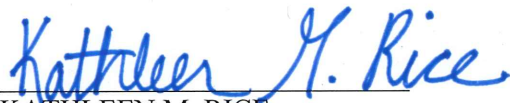
RON KIND
Member of Congress



NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress



JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



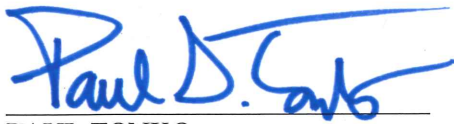
KATHLEEN M. RICE
Member of Congress



LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ
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GLENN "GT" THOMPSON
Member of Congress



PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress



MARC VEASEY
Member of Congress



RO KHANNA
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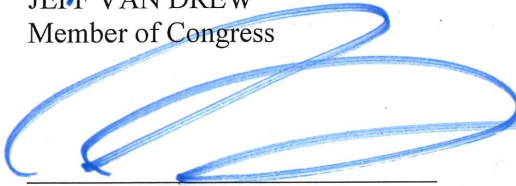
ANDY KIM
Member of Congress



JEFF VAN DREW
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CHRIS PAPPAS
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ANTONIO DELGADO
Member of Congress



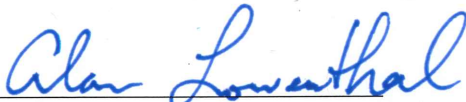
ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ
Member of Congress



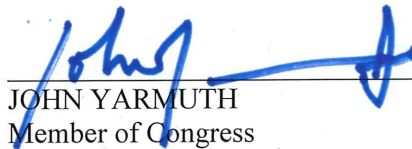
JENNIFFER GONZALEZ-COLON
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TULSI GABBARD
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JOHN YARMUTH
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MAX ROSE
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ANDRE CARSON
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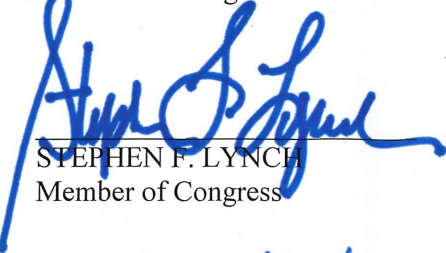
DARIN LAHOOD
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MIKE KELLY
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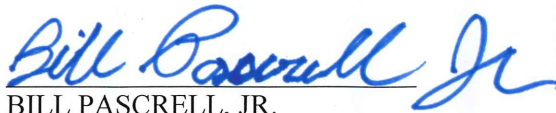
LORI TRAHAN
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Member of Congress



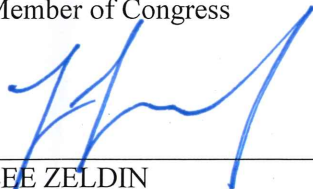
VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



LEE ZELDIN
Member of Congress



CHRIS COLLINS
Member of Congress



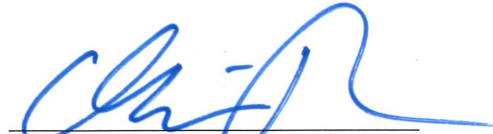
ADAM B. SCHIFF
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JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



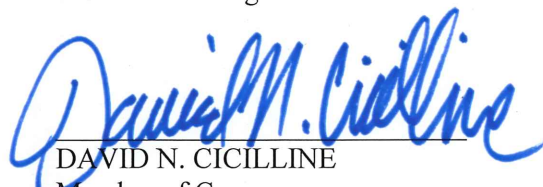
ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress



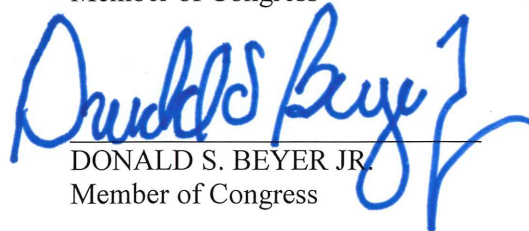
RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress



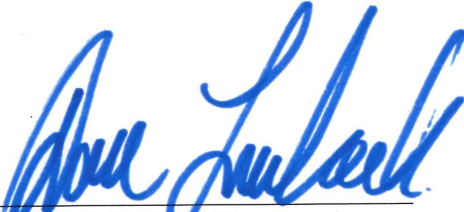
VAL DEMINGS
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DAVID N. CICILLINE
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DONALD S. BEYER JR.
Member of Congress



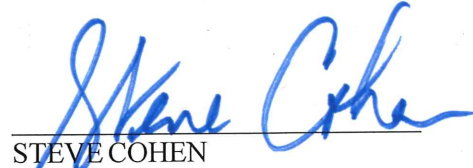
DAVE LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



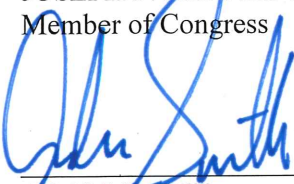
MADELEINE DEAN
Member of Congress



JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III
Member of Congress



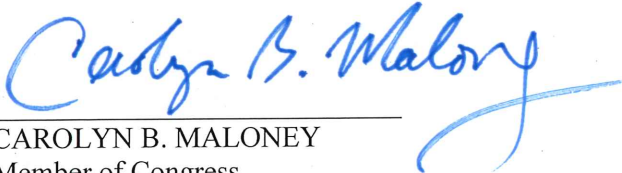
STEVE COHEN
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ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



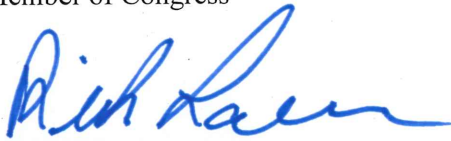
SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress



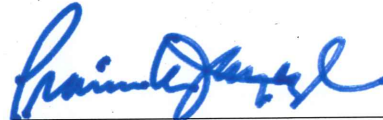
CAROLYN B. MALONEY
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TERRI A. SEWELL
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress



PETER A. DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



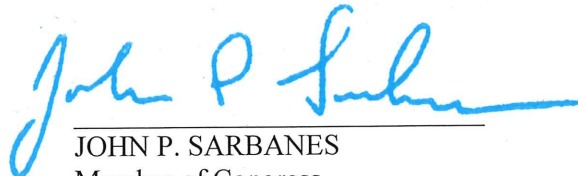
NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
Member of Congress



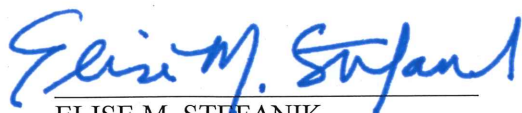
SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress



RUBEN GALLEGO
Member of Congress



JOHN P. SARBANES
Member of Congress



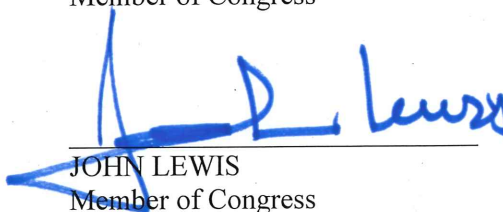
ELISE M. STEFANIK
Member of Congress



ANN MCLANE KUSTER
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JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress



JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress



BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress



BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress



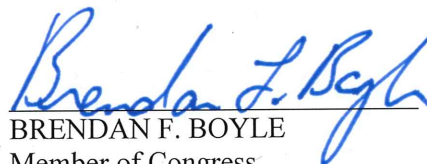
JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



RICHARD E. NEAL
Member of Congress



MICHAEL R. TURNER
Member of Congress



BRENDAN F. BOYLE
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress



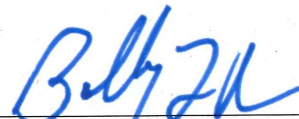
MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress




DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress




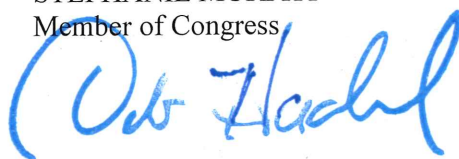
ADAM KINZINGER
Member of Congress

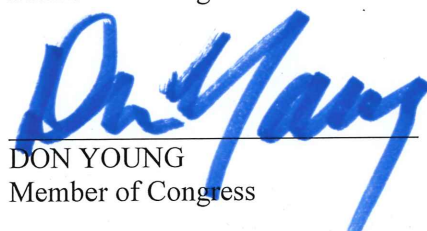



BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress

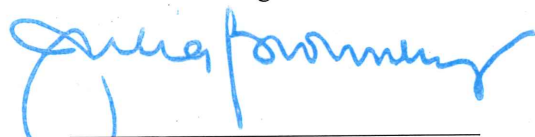

JASON CROW
Member of Congress



STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress



DEB HAALAND
Member of Congress



DON YOUNG
Member of Congress

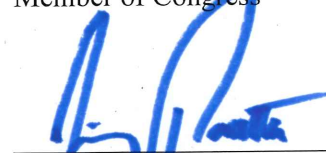

A. DONALD MCEACHIN
Member of Congress


JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress



JIM HIMES
Member of Congress



AL LAWSON
Member of Congress


ED PERLMUTTER
Member of Congress



JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress


ANTHONY BRINDISI
Member of Congress

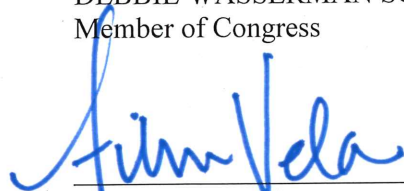

GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress


JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



JAMES R. LANGEVIN
Member of Congress

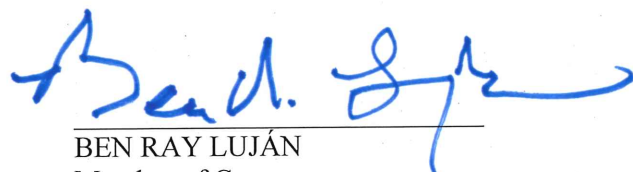

ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress

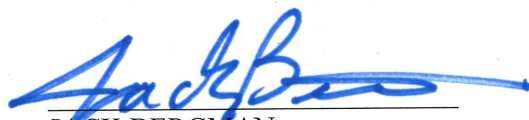

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

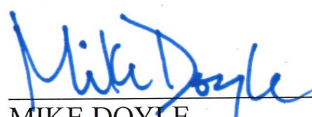

FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress

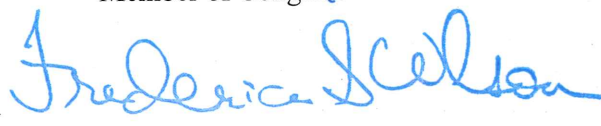

COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress



DANIEL W. LIPINSKI
Member of Congress

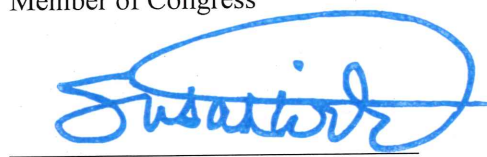

BEN RAY LUJÁN
Member of Congress

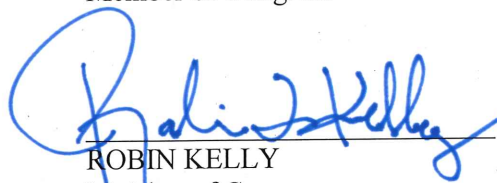

JACK BERGMAN
Member of Congress


MIKE DOYLE
Member of Congress


FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress



DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress

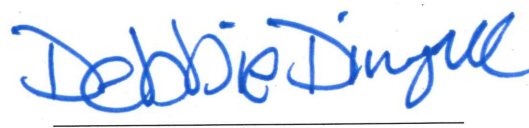

SUSAN WILD
Member of Congress



ROBIN KELLY
Member of Congress

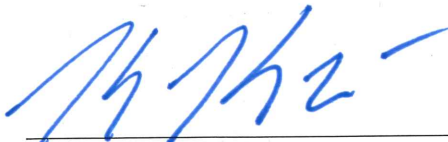

EMANUEL CLEAVER, II
Member of Congress


DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress


G. K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress


DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress


BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER
Member of Congress



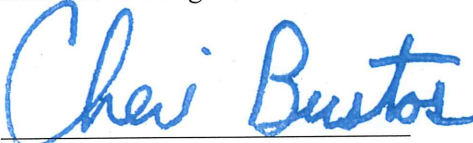
JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress



DANIEL T. KILDEE
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BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Member of Congress



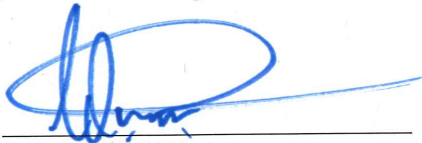
CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress



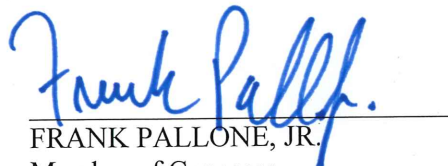
YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress



STEVEN HORSFORD
Member of Congress



ILHAN OMAR
Member of Congress



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



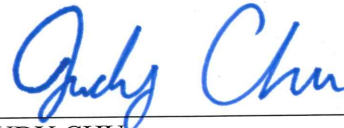
DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress



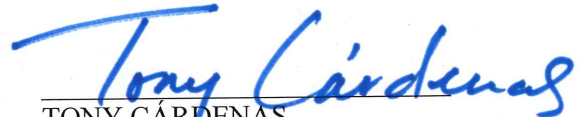
JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



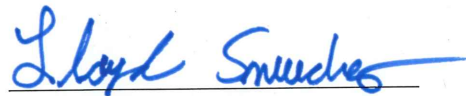
JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



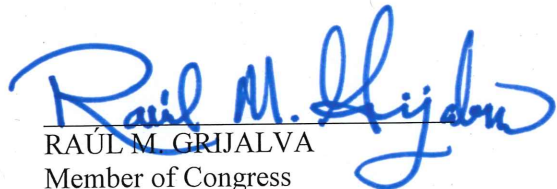
TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress



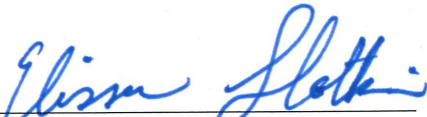
LIZZIE FLETCHER
Member of Congress

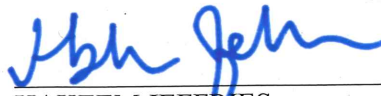



LLOYD SMUCKER
Member of Congress



RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress

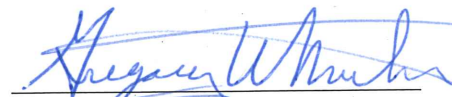

ELISSA SLOTKIN
Member of Congress



HAKEEM JEFFRIES
Member of Congress



HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
Member of Congress

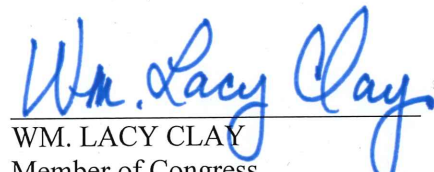

DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress



KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress

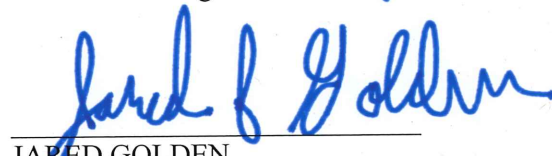

GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress


ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress


CONOR LAMB
Member of Congress



WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress



VERONICA ESCOBAR
Member of Congress


JARED GOLDEN
Member of Congress

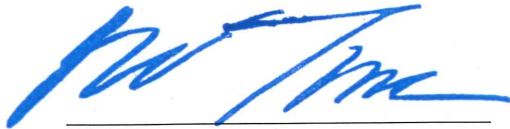

LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
Member of Congress


DANIEL P. MEUSER
Member of Congress

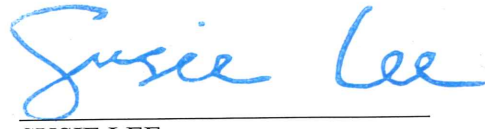

ALMA S. ADAMS
Member of Congress


MARY GAY SCANLON
Member of Congress

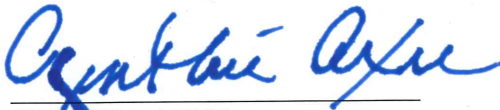

WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress



DAVID TRONE
Member of Congress



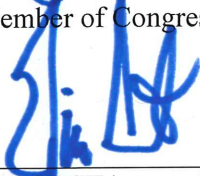
SUSIE LEE
Member of Congress



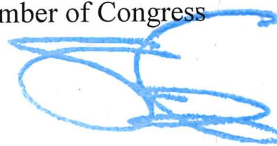
CYNTHIA AXNE
Member of Congress



JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



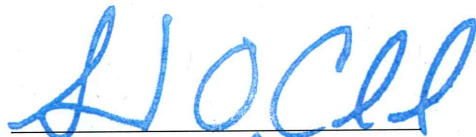
SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress



AUMA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN
Member of Congress



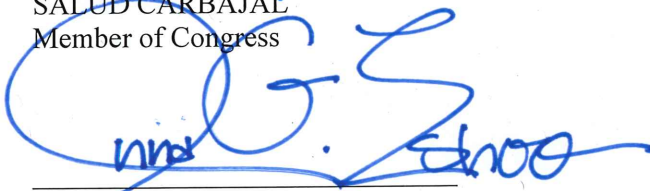
JOSH GOTTHEIMER
Member of Congress



SALUD CARBAJAL
Member of Congress



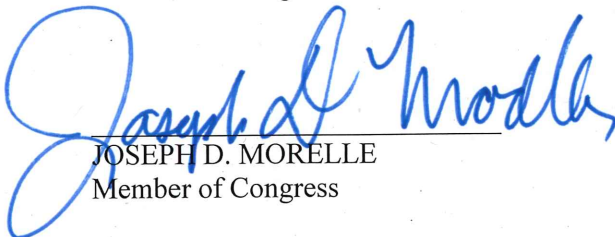
RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress



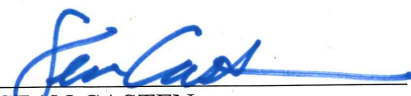
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
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JOSEPH D. MORELLE
Member of Congress



CEDRIC RICHMOND
Member of Congress



SEAN CASTEN
Member of Congress



ELAINE LURIA
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